(SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Export of fresh fruits (including apples) and vegetables is freely allowed by the Government. As incentives for these exports Government allows Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) @22 per cent for export by air, and 10 per cent for export by sea, and import replenishment @10 per cent etc. Besides, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) also takes steps to promote such exports by organising buyer-seller meets, participation in international exhibitions etc.

(b) According to the Ministry of Agriculture, which is concerned with the production aspects, a number of schemes are being implemented to step up production of fruits and vegetables and for reducing post harvest losses of fruits and vegetables.

(c) Figures of state-wise per capita fruits and vegetables are not available. However, according to the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, a minimum per capita consumption of 280 gms of vegetables including tubers is essential. The present level of production would supply only 130 gms per capita per day.

According to the recommended dietary allowance prescribed by the Indian Council of Medical Research for various classes of people, the average per capita requirement of fruit is 92 gms per day. The present level of fruit production would supply this quantity per capita per day.

(d) and (e) Government is aware that pesticides/insecticides residues in fruits and vegetables can come in the way of export of these items. All possible care is, therefore, taken to ensure that plant protection measures for fruits and vegetables do not build up pesticides/insecticides residues beyond permissible limits and that fruits and vegetables are safe for human consumption after certain waiting period prescribed for each chemical and crop.

UAE dhows detected off the Indian coast overlooking Arabian Sea

*320. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of dhows from the UAE with updated radars and sophisticated satellite communication system have been detected during the past few months off the Indian coast overlooking the Arabian sea; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such actitvities noticed during the past six months indicating the contrabands, if any, seized from such vessels?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) A number of dhows engaged in smuggling of contraband from some countries of West Asia including United Arab Emirates have been apprehended in the recent past by the Customs and the Coast Guard off the Indian coast overlooking the Arabian sea. Some of these dhows have been found to be fitted with modern commercially available radars, satellite navigation the communication equipment. The apprehension of some of these dhows during the past six months has resulted mainly in the seizure of silver in significant quantities.